PFM 0 DOI 0 VDU 0 [redacted] 0 LMG 0 OPS 0 [redacted] 2 [redacted]

S E C R E T

STAFF GUATEMALA CITY

- PGT Cont
- why now

TO: IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR

FOR: [redacted] CHIEF/LA

[redacted]

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - STATION INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN GUATEMALA

REF: NONE.

TEXT:

1. OVER THE PAST YEAR, STATION HAS BEEN RECEIVING INCREASINGLY DISTURBING REPORTS OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS INVOLVING THE [redacted] SERVICE, THE GUATEMALAN ARMY OR OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE GUATEMALAN SECURITY SERVICES. WE HAVE TAKEN ALL SUCH REPORTS SERIOUSLY AND HAVE ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION TO CONFIRM OR DISPROVE THEM. OF COURSE, THIS HAS NOT BEEN EASY; THERE IS SELDOM SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO WARRANT INTELLIGENCE DISSEMINATION. (b)(1) (b)(3) (S)

[redacted]

IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS REPORTS RECEIVED [redacted] HAVE CREATED WHAT WE BELIEVE ARE REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THAT CERTAIN SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS AND OTHER, MORE GENERAL ACCUSATIONS MAY BE TRUE. WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS CONCLUSION NOT JUST FROM REPORTING ON INDIVIDUAL INCIDENTS, BUT ALSO FROM SUPPORTING REPORTING THAT HAS PROVIDED THE "ATMOSPHERICS" SURROUNDING THE CASES. WE STRESS THAT IN ALL OF THESE CASES FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS WARRANTED, BUT WE PRESENT THE FOLLOWING INFORMAION IN DETAIL TO PROVIDE TO HQS THE CONTENT OF SOME RECENT REVELATIONS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE STATION HAS MADE THE FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF ALL OF THESE INCIDENTS A TOP PRIORITY. FOLLOWING IS RECENT INFORMATION

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Z-038

10B-3

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2003

[redacted]

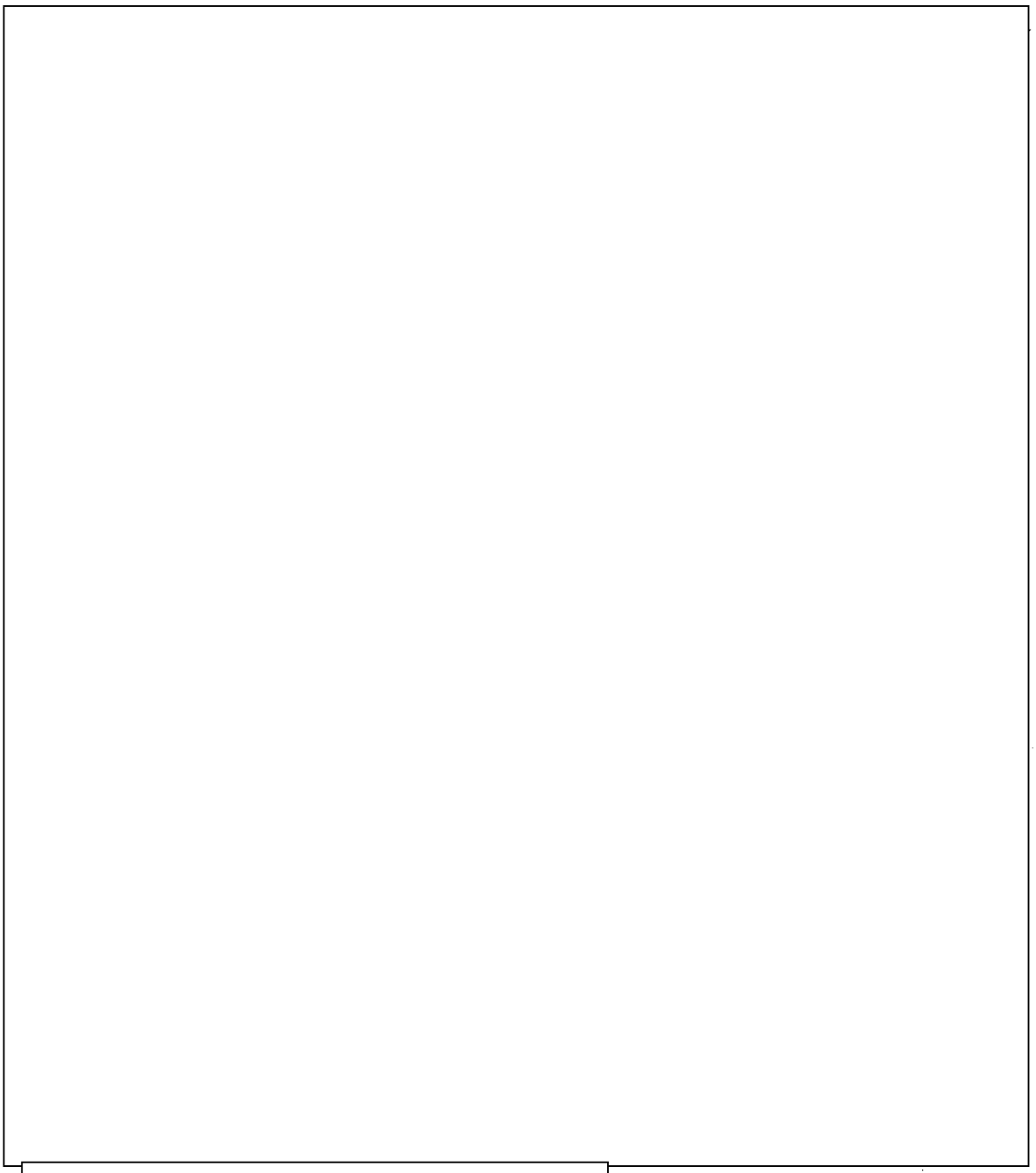
RECEIVED ON INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CASES:

A. MURDER OF MICHA . [[DEVINE]], U.S. CITIZEN

[redacted]

THIS IS THE APPARENT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. THE COMMANDER OF MILITARY ZONE 23, COLONEL [[GARCIA]] CATALAN, REPORTED THE LOSS OF A GALIL RIFLE BY HIS TROOPS [A SOLDIER DESERTED AND TOOK HIS RIFLE WITH HIM]. GARCIA HAD LOST OTHER WEAPONS IN THE PAST, A SERIOUS OFFENSE AND A BLACK MARK IN HIS MILITARY RECORD. WE SPECULATE THAT GARCIA CATALAN PROBABLY REPORTED THIS TO THE GENERAL STAFF AND THE [redacted] SERVICE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE THEN ORDERED THAT THE WEAPON BE RECOVERED, A MISSION THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT [redacted] BY THE LOCAL S-2 OFFICE, UNDER GARCIA'S DIRECT COMMAND. CAPTAIN HUGO [[CONTRERAS]], FROM THE MZ 23 S-2 OFFICE, WAS SENT TO QUESTION DEVINE. why? [redacted] CONTRERAS HAD DEVINE ARRESTED AND TOOK HIM TO THE KAIBIL BASE AT POPTUN, PETEN DEPARTMENT. [redacted] [redacted] DEVINE WAS TIED TO A CHAIR AND SUFFOCATED WITH A PONCHO IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE HIM TALK ABOUT THE MISSING RIFLE. [redacted] [redacted] CONTRERAS CONFIRMED THAT DEVINE HAD THE RIFLE, BUT IT WAS NOT RECOVERED [NFI]. [redacted] [redacted] AT SOME POINT, DEVINE DIED OR WAS KILLED BY CONTRERAS. HIS NECK WAS CUT WITH A MACHETE [PERHAPS TO HIDE MARKS ON THE NECK FROM THE STRANGULATION OR SUFFOCATION] AND THE BODY WAS DUMPED ON A ROAD NEAR HIS HOUSE.

[redacted]



[redacted] THIS INDICATES THAT THE ENTIRE COMMAND STRUCTURE OF THE MILITARY ZONE WHERE THE KILLING TOOK PLACE WAS CONTROLLED BY MEN KNOWN TO BE CAPABLE OF MURDER UNDER THE MOST CASUAL PRETEXT. [redacted] THAT CONTRERAS WAS ALSO A VIOLENT, UNPREDICTABLE MAN KNOWN FOR BEATING SOLDIERS WITH STICKS. [redacted] REPORTED THAT [FNU] SPECIALIST [[ALFARO]], ONE OF THE ENLISTED MEN ACCUSED IN THE DEVINE KILLING, [redacted] IN FACT KILLED DEVINE. WE SEE NO CONFLICT IN THIS VERSION OF THE STORY. CONSIDERING THE LOW REGARD IN WHICH ENLISTED MEN ARE HELD IN GUATEMALA, IF CONTRERAS WAS IN COMMAND WHEN DEVINE WAS KILLED, [redacted] WOULD HAVE

SAID HE WAS THE KILLER EVEN IF SOMEBODY ELSE (SUCH AS ALPARO) DEALT THE DEATH BL[redacted] BELIEVES THAT THE COVER-UP HAS BEEN ORDERED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL LUIS ENRIQUE [[MENDOZA]] TO PROTECT THE ARMY AND THE INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS INVOLVED. [redacted] IS OF THE SAME OPINION AND STATES THAT MENDOZA ALONE IS HOLDING UP THE INVESTIGATION OF THE DEVINE KILLING. [redacted] IN HIS OPINION, THOSE INVOLVED WOULD HAVE BEEN RETIRED GENERAL [[BOLANOS]], THE FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER, [redacted] WHO MAY HAVE GIVEN THE ORDER TO INVESTIGATE THE THEFT OF THE GALIL RIFLE, COLONEL GARCIA CATALAN, [redacted] AND CAPTAIN CONTRERAS. GARCIA CATALAN AND MENDOZA ARE BOTH PROTEGES OF FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE [[GRAMAJO]]. ACCORDING TO [redacted] GRAMAJO RETAINS STRONG INFLUENCE IN THE ARMY AND CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE THE PLACEMENT OF KEY OFFICERS. HE SAID THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE DESIRE TO PROTECT GRAMAJO'S MEN (CAREFULLY PLACED IN KEY PSOTIONS BEFORE HE LEFT OFFICE, IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS EXPECTED 1995 PRESIDENTIAL BID) IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE ABSOLUTE REFUSAL TO COOPERATE ON THE DEVINE CASE.

[redacted]

B. KIDNAPPING OF DIANA [[ORTIZ]]: DIANA [[ORTIZ]] IS A U.S. CITIZEN AND ROMAN CATHOLIC NUN WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED AND RELEASED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO BY GUATEMALAN

SECURITY FORCES. UNTIL NOW, STATION (AND THE EMBASSY) HAS BEEN INCLINED TO REGARD(R STORY WITH SUSPICION BE( )SE OF THE TACTICS COMMONLY USED BY LEFTIST PROPAGANDISTS IN GUATEMALA [FALSE KIDNAPPINGS, ETC.] AND THE UNCONVINCING CONTENT OF HER STORY. [redacted] ~~TOLD STATION~~, HOWEVER, THAT SHE WAS IN FACT KIDNAPPED AS SHE CLAIMED, PROBABLY BY THE S-2 OFFICE OF MILITARY ZONE 302, WITH HEADQUARTERS IN CHIMALTENANGO, CHIMALTENANGO DEPARTMENT [SHE WAS KIDNAPPED IN ANTIGUA GUATEMALA, WHICH IS IN MZ 302]. STATION MUST STRESS THAT [redacted] HAS SIMPLY SAID THAT HE KNOWS SHE WAS KIDNAPPED, BUT HAS NOT PROVIDED ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION SURROUNDING THE KIDNAPPING. IN VIEW OF THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THIS CASE, THIS IS A CRUCIAL POINT. AS HQS MAY BE AWARE, THE CASE HAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE NEWS COVERAGE IN THE U.S., INCLUDING A STORY ON THE 20/20 NEWS SHOW. IN THE OPINION OF [redacted] SHE WAS PROBABLY NOT RAPED OR OTHERWISE MISTREATED AS SHE CLAIMED, HOWEVER. [redacted] SAID THAT WOMEN ARE NOT NORMALLY SEXUALLY MOLESTED AND IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT BY HER CAPTORS SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED RATHER THAN RELEASED. [redacted] SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO WHAT HE KNOWS OF SUCH AFFAIRS, WOMEN WHO ARE NOT RELEASED ARE USUALLY STABBED AND LEFT AT A PUBLIC BUS TERMINAL SO THEY WILL BE FOUND AND THE DEATH REPORTED AS AN ORDINARY CRIMINAL INCIDENT. THOSE RELEASED UNHARMED ARE SOMETIMES DRUGGED AND THEN RELEASED. WHEN THEY COME TO THEY ARE DISORIENTED AND OFTEN UNABLE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM. THIS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN THE CASE WITH ORTIZ. [redacted] ADDED THAT ORTIZ WAS IN CONTACT WITH LEFTIST GUERRILLAS, WHICH LED TO HER ARREST. WE REPEAT, [redacted] WAS UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS, BUT WAS CLEAR IN STATING THAT OPTIZ HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED.

personal knowledge

C. FRANK [[VARGAS]], SANDINISTA MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. VARGAS WAS SHOT TO DEATH ON THE STREET IN ZONE 10, GUATEMALA CITY IN LATE 1989. ACCORDING TO [redacted] HE WAS SHOT BY

[redacted] LT. [[MACON]], [redacted] HAD NO MORE DETAILS ON THE KILLING. STATION SUSPECTS THAT VARGAS TURNED DOWN AN [redacted] RECRUITMENT PITCH OR IGNORED A DEMAND THAT HE CEASE OPERATIONS IN GUATEMALA CITY.

D. MYRNA [[MACK]] CHANG: [redacted] REPORTS THAT THE [redacted] SERVICE ASSASSINATED THE POLICE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE A NUMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS CASES, INCLUDING THE MURDER OF MYRNA [[MACK]] CHANG, A MEMBER OF THE GUATEMALAN GUERRILLA POLITICAL STRUCTURE. ALTHOUGH [redacted] DID NOT SAY THAT THE [redacted] SERVICE KILLED MACK, [redacted] SAID THAT HE BELIEVES FROM THE NATURE OF THE KILLING AND THE ATTEMPTS TO SHIFT THE BLAME TO THE [redacted] SERVICE [THE PRIME "SUSPECT", WHO CANNOT BE LOCATED, IS A FORMER [redacted] MEMBER] THAT THE [redacted] SERVICE MAY WELL HAVE KILLED HER. TO BALANCE THIS, [redacted] REPORTED THAT A CRIMINAL KILLED THE POLICE OFFICER BECAUSE OF A CORRUPTION CASE THE SLAIN POLICEMAN WAS INVOLVED IN. THE [redacted] SERVICE PRODUCED A TAPE WHICH HAS A CONFESSION OF THE ALLEGED KILLER, A PETTY CRIMINAL. [redacted] REPORTS THAT THE [redacted] SERVICE INDUCED A CRIMINAL TO TAKE THE FALL FOR THE KILLING, WITH A PROMISE OF LATER RELEASE. THIS IS POSSIBLE, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ACCUSED CRIMINAL OR OTHERS WERE ASKED TO CARRY OUT THE KILLING BY THE [redacted] SERVICE. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE [redacted] WERE NOT INVOLVED.

E. ALLEGED KILLING OF FIFTEEN CRIMINALS [redacted] REPORTS THAT IN EARLY OCTOBER 1991 SOME ITEMS, INCLUDING A RADIO, WERE STOLEN FROM AN [redacted] VEHICLE THAT WAS ON A SURVEILLANCE MISSION IN GUATEMALA CITY. [redacted] PLACED ANOTHER CAR WITH "BAIT" IN THE SAME AREA SOME TIME AFTER THE INCIDENT AND EVENTUALLY WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE 15 MEMBERS OF A CRIMINAL GANG OPERATING IN THE AREA. THEY WERE LOCKED IN THE BACK OF A VAN. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER, THREE OF THE CRIMINALS WERE TAKEN OUT AND SHOT, THEIR

BODIES IDENTIFIED WITH NOTES PASTED TO THEIR FOREHEADS. THESE WERE THEN DUMPED IN A PUBLIC AREA. NOTICES HAD APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON THEIR WHEREABOUTS. THE OTHER TWELVE WERE SHOT AND BURIED. [redacted]

2. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST HABITUAL CRIMINALS, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND TERRORISTS, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ANY CLEAR INFORMATION ON OTHER CASES. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT ALMOST ANY MURDER IN GUATEMALA IS LIKELY TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE [redacted] SERVICE. IN FACT, THERE IS SO MUCH CRIMINAL ACTIVITY HERE (NOT TO MENTION POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF A VIOLENT NATURE) THAT IT IS USUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHO IS REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL ACT. AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THIS WOULD BE THE KILLING OF ELEVEN PERSONS BY A GROUP WHICH INCLUDE ~~THE~~ A GUATEMALAN NAVY COMMANDO. IF THE NAVAL OFFICERS IN CHARGE HAD NOT CARRIED OUT THE KILLINGS IN SUCH A CLUMSY FASHION, IT IS PROBABLE THAT NOBODY WOULD HAVE EVER SUSPECTED THE NAVY OF CARRYING OUT THE KILLINGS. THEY MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO [redacted] IN ANOTHER INSTANCE, [redacted] HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF HAVING TRACKED DOWN THE GANG THAT RAPED AND ROBBED A GROUP OF GERMAN TOURISTS. IT HAS EVEN BEEN RUMORED THAT THEY RECEIVED DIRECT ORDERS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA TO DO THIS. OF COURSE, THERE IS NO PROOF WHATSOEVER THAT THIS HAPPENED. TO FURTHER ILLUSTRATE THE POINT, THE KILLING OF FRANK VARGAS, THE SANDINISTA, HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE SANDINISTAS, LOCAL CONTRA SUPPORTERS, LOCAL CRIMINALS (VARGAS WAS REPORTED TO BE INVOLVED IN DIRECT KINDS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY) AND, OF COURSE, [redacted] REGARDLESS OF [redacted] STATEMENT, WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE IS WRONG AND THAT [redacted] WAS MERELY BOASTING AND TAKING CREDIT FOR A CRIME COMMITTED BY

ANOTHER PERSON. REGARDING THE SUPPORTING "ATMOSPHERICS", [redacted] [redacted] HAVE ALL NOW REPORTED ON A PATTERN OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE [redacted] SERVICE AND THE GUATEMALAN ARMY IN GENERAL. THE EARLIER MENTIONED KILLING OF ELEVEN PERSONS BY A GUATEMALAN NAVY COMMANDER A FEW WEEKS AGO, A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD, IS NOW PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE. THE GENERAL OPINION EXPRESSED BY ALL OF THEM IS THAT THE EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PERSONS IS ALMOST ROUTINE. IT IS APPARENTLY CONSIDERED JUSTIFIED TO KILL GUERRILLAS WHO REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH THE ARMY, COMMON CRIMINALS AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. REPORTS OF THIS KIND ARE ONE THING, HOWEVER. PROOF OR SOLID EVIDENCE IS ANOTHER.

3. COS COMMENTS:

4. FILE: NONE. [redacted]

[redacted] DATE: 10/15/91 REL:

COORDINATORS: @B

Who this may ever sent?